

# The Lexington Intelligencer.

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No 1

## GONE TO HIS REWARD.

Biography of one of the County's Best Citizens.

### DEATH OF JOSEPH R. BARNETT.

A Man of Similarity of Purpose and Fidelity to Duty.

Died, at his residence in this city, on the evening of the 27th of December, 1902, after a painful illness, Capt. Joseph R. Barnett, in the 74th year of his age. He was a man esteemed very highly by all who knew him for his integrity of character and for the uprightness of his life as a neighbor and fellow citizen. His influence and example will long be felt in the community in which he lived and moved for so many years.

Joseph Ryland Barnett was born in Madison county, in the state of Kentucky, on the 7th day of July, 1829. He was the third son of Joseph and Elizabeth F. Barnett (nee Ryland) that reached their maturity. He continued to live with his parents in "old Madison" until the year 1849, when he came to Lafayette county, Missouri, which was to be his home for so many years, and in whose dear old Macpherson cemetery his body is to rest till called to judgment in the first resurrection. He brought with him from his native state those noble traits of character that distinguished him all through life, namely: sincerity of purpose and fidelity to duty. In the year 1850 in company with his eldest brother, Lieut. Robert I. Barnett (one of those dashing young men and officers that went with Gen. A. W. Doniphan to the Mexican war in 1846 from western Missouri) and other young men, he crossed the plains to California and remained there until 1857, when he returned to the states by way of the Isthmus of Panama on a splendid steamer that was lost on the Pacific Ocean on her next voyage after the one when he was a passenger. He was deeply impressed by this accident. After his return from California he went to live again with his mother, then a widow, and who had moved with her family from Kentucky and had located on a farm four miles east of Lexington, now owned by Dr. George W. Bates, and remained with her farming until the late civil war between the states broke out, when at the call of duty, as he saw it, he enlisted in the cause of the South and joined Shelby's brigade. He was among the first to answer the sound of the trumpet of war and among the last to return home again after the strife had ended. He was in the battle of Lexington in September, 1861, and when Gen. Price returned south he with some others remained to gather up recruits and any who might be inclined to shirk duty, when he was taken prisoner by the 1st regiment Kansas volunteer infantry commanded by Col. George W. Dettler and was taken to Leavenworth, Kansas. He was paroled in April, 1862, and returned to Lafayette county, where he was again arrested as a military prisoner and was kept as such in St. Louis and at Alton, Ill., until March 25th, 1863, when he was sent to Camp Chase to be exchanged. After being exchanged he went immediately to Richmond, Virginia, arriving there on the 4th day of April, 1863, and reported for duty. On April 17th he was ordered to rejoin his command on the west of the Mississippi river, which order he promptly obeyed, reaching Little Rock, Arkansas, on the 22nd of May, 1863, and soon rejoined Shelby's brigade and was captain and acting adjutant of Gordon's regiment volunteer Missouri cavalry. And on Shelby's raid into Missouri, made in the fall of 1863, Captain Barnett was severely wounded in the skirmish fought at the town (now city) of Marshall and was again taken prisoner and was paroled, and before he was sent he was compelled to go south with his companions before he was relieved of his

parole or was exchanged. But like the conscientious man he was and true soldier he did not break his parole. In February, 1865, he addressed a letter to his commanding General Shelby giving his history as a paroled prisoner and of his having been compelled to go with them south notwithstanding his parole, and saying to Gen. Shelby: "I cannot conscientiously enter the confederate service until I know something further in regard to my case." This letter was referred by Gen. Shelby to Major Gen. McGruker and on the back thereof there is this endorsement: "Cav. Hdqrs. D. A., Washington, March 10, 1865. Barnett's position as a paroled prisoner must be respected, but he should report at the very earliest moment his status to Dept. Hdqrs. By order Major Gen. C. J. F. Fagan. H. Ewing, Adj. At the close of the war he was finally paroled at Shreveport, Louisiana, June 20th, 1865. I have mentioned this incident to show with what strict regard he held his word of honor even in the midst of circumstances that would have led a less conscientious man to disregard it. This but exemplifies his true manhood. What he did and said as a soldier and as a citizen was said and done from a sense of duty and due regard for the highest principles of what he believed to be right.

After the war he returned to his home in Lafayette county and again took up his chosen avocation of farming, which he continued to follow successfully up to within a year of his death, when age and feeble health rendered him unfit for so active a calling. While Capt. Barnett remained in California he was engaged part of his time in freighting to the mines on pack mules, and many a thrilling experience he had to relate of these early and stirring times in that land of gold and excitement. Both his experience as a freighter and later on as a soldier taught him to be sure that he was right or to believe he was right before acting. Having resumed farming and gathering up what was left him of earthly goods and chattels by the ravages of war, Capt. Barnett saw that it was best for man not to live alone, so on the 7th day of March, 1871, he was united in marriage to Miss Clarice Grant, who now survives him, and with whom he spent the last and happiest years of his long life. They had no children and their chief joy was in making each other happy and in helping to make others happy around them. Capt. Barnett came from an old Presbyterian family and died in full fellowship with that communion. And the testimony borne by one of his pastors to his fidelity to his church and to his religious duties and church obligations was such as to give comfort and great consolation to his friends and relatives. While standing beside the open coffin and looking upon his cold form a friend and neighbor of his said: "There lies the best friend and neighbor I ever had. I loved him as a brother. The death of such a man is a loss to any community. The encouraging and sustaining, yes and restraining influence of such a man is seen and felt in the lives and conduct of those who knew and esteemed him. The scripture saith blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; yea, saith the spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them." That such is the blessedness of our departed friend and brother we most devoutly believe. "May he that tempers the wind to the shorn lamb shield, protect, comfort and bless the widow in her loneliness, and guide and direct her and her bereaved sisters, kindred and friends in the way that leads to glory and to God is the sincere prayer of one who knew him well and loved him.

#### Critical Condition.

A message received Friday morning from the physician in charge of the Pueblo hospital, where James Weedin lies ill with typhoid fever, says that his condition is very critical and intimates that little hope for recovery is entertained.

## LIFE STORY OF JESSIE BENTON FREMONT

Daughter of Missouri's Greatest Senator and Wife of the Nation's Greatest Explorer.

### HER ROMANTIC MARRIAGE AND ACTIVE LIFE.

Her Death at her California Home—the Gift of the People of that State.

Mrs. Jessie Benton Fremont, widow of General Fremont, died of pneumonia at her home in Los Angeles, California, last Sunday. The "Pathfinder's" widow was a daughter of the late Senator Benton, of Missouri. Her home was a house given her by the women of California.

Mrs. Fremont was crippled and unable to walk. Several years ago she fell, dislocating her hip. Since then she was helpless, so far as walking was concerned, and had required the constant attention of a trained nurse. Her general health, however, was good. Mrs. Fremont received from the government a pension of \$2,000 a year, and this, together with the comfortable home which the women of California provided for her some years ago, served very well for herself and daughter.

Mrs. Fremont was the widow of General Fremont, the "pathfinder" of the '40s of the recent century, a leader in the conquest of California in 1846, the republican party's first candidate for the presidency and commander of the department of the west early in the civil war.

The marriage in 1841 of the dashing, ambitious and intrepid Lieutenant Fremont to the beautiful, brilliant and popular Jessie Benton, the 17-year-old daughter of Missouri's senior senator, leader of the Jacksonian element of the national democracy, as distinguished from the Calhoun faction, was an event which attracted almost as much attention throughout the country as did the contest then under way between Tyler and the whig party, which elected him vice president on the ticket with Harrison. He went to the presidency on Harrison's death. The marriage advanced fremont's fortunes professionally and politically. It assisted in getting the young officer the assignments for the exploration of the Rocky mountain region and the Pacific coast, for which his talents and ambition conspicuously fitted him. It gained him a reputation throughout the world as the "pathfinder of the western wilderness," and helped to get him the presidential candidacy subsequently.

On the second of these expeditions, that of 1843, her penetration and courage had a decisive influence on her husband's career and at the same time had an effect on her country's history. Mrs. Fremont, then in St. Louis, her father's and husband's residence city, was directed by her husband to open all the letters sent to him, official and personal, and to send him only those giving him instructions necessary for him to observe. Receiving a letter from Colonel Albert, chief of the topographical bureau, ordering Fremont to return to Washington and explain why he was carrying a bowitzer, which Fremont wisely obtained in order to arm his men against the hostile Blackfeet, knowing that a return would mean the end of the expedition for that year, and perhaps for all time. Mrs. Fremont withheld the letter and sent a mounted messenger to Fremont, who was then at Kaw Landing, the site of the present Kansas City, beyond the verge of civilization, preparing to start across the plains. She warned him to get under way at the earliest possible moment.

He obeyed the injunction, pushed across the prairies, went over the Rockies, explored the great Salt Lake basin, penetrated the region around the Columbia's upper tributaries, marched down the Pacific coast into California, then Mexican territory, traversed his way north and east through a gap in the Sierra Nevada never penetrated by white men before that time, made another investigation of Salt Lake's surroundings,

and then, swinging eastward, was back in St. Louis in midsummer of 1844. This was the expedition which made Fremont's reputation all over the world, and reflected on the government at Washington, which had tried to prevent the expedition, a credit which that government took especial pains to appropriate.

This expedition had two sorts of political consequences of decisive influence on the country's history. Fremont's report, published in 1845, sent Brigham Young and the Mormons to Salt Lake, then Mexican territory, which came to the United States in the treaty of Gaudalupe Hidalgo in 1848, the end of the Mexican war and diverted them from Lower California, where they originally intended to locate. Lower California remained in Mexico's hands after the treaty and ever since. A still more important consequence was that it gave Fremont a knowledge of the strategic points in California, which he turned to decisive account on his third expedition in 1846, when he struck the first blow in the war which made California and New Mexico United States territory. He became one of California's first senators when that state entered the union in 1850.

In 1863 lands belonging to Mrs. Fremont in the harbor of San Francisco were seized for military purposes by order of Secretary Stanton, and though lands adjoining hers which were taken at the same time were afterwards restored to the owners, hers were held, and not a cent was paid her therefor by the government. Various committees of congress in the last third of a century investigated her claim, and reported favorably, but no action has been taken.

Of the many reminiscences, of which Mrs. Fremont had a store, none were as interesting as the story she told of the courtship of General Fremont and of her romantic marriage to the explorer. She met John C. Fremont in the very late '30s. Fremont was then a second lieutenant of engineers in the United States army and was engaged in a survey of the territory that lay between the Missouri and upper rivers. The young officer was introduced into the house of Colonel Thomas H. Benton, then United States senator from Missouri, and at first sight, according to his confession to the young woman after she became his wife, fell deeply in love with Miss Jessie Benton, the second daughter of the senator, then a young girl only fifteen years old. The young lieutenant proved to be an ardent wooer and at once began to press his suit. The object of his affections looked favorably upon his wooing, but the parents of the young lady seriously objected to his attentions to their daughter.

Colonel Benton was vehement and outspoken in his opposition to young Fremont's suit. He declared that his daughter should not wed an army subaltern. He declared that the army was not a profession; that an officer's income was only a salary that ended with his life, leaving his widow a helpless ward of the war department. Mrs. Benton's objection to Fremont's suit was based upon the extreme youth of her daughter. Both father and mother expressed the greatest personal regard for the young lieutenant, but they were determined, for the reasons they gave and which they considered sufficient, and that he should not wed their child. He told the father of the young girl he loved of his ambitions; how he intended to rise above the rank of simple lieutenant of engineers and make for himself a name that should be illustrious; but to all the young lover's pleadings the

father turned a deaf ear, and would become impatient at the young man for his persistence.

It was the summer of 1841, while young Fremont was endeavoring to overcome these impediments that had been placed in the way of his marriage, that he received a strange but emphatic order from the war department to make an examination of the Des Moines river, then upon the extreme frontier and upon whose banks the hostile Sac and Fox Indians made their homes. The order was a mysterious one, but it was inexorable. The young lieutenant and his sweetheart suspected that the idea of sending him into such distant territory emanated from Colonel Benton, who hoped that during the long absence of the soldier his daughter might be weaned away from what he considered a mere infatuation of hers. There were but two courses open to young Fremont—to obey the order or throw up his commission. He was a soldier and he obeyed orders. With the best spirits he could command Fremont set out upon his perilous expedition. He discharged his duty with so much credit to himself that the gallant soldier returning not only found the royal heart of his sweetheart awaiting him, but an appointment to explore the Rocky mountains, and also to find a new emigrant trail to the great west.

Soon after the young officer's return to Washington on the 19th of October, 1841, he and Miss Jessie Benton were quietly wedded in Washington. Colonel Benton and his wife soon became reconciled to the marriage—so soon, that the very next year the colonel intrusted his 12-year-old son, Randolph, to the care of Fremont as his companion during his expedition to the Rocky mountains.

#### B. P. O. E. Reception.

The members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks entertained the friends Thursday night at an informal reception. The beautiful new home of the Elks was filled with a merry crowd of ladies and gentlemen, many of whom were in evening dress. Various entertainments were provided for the guests. A full orchestra composed of the Lexington orchestra assisted by J. J. Bredehoeft and A. T. Brockman, of Concordia, furnished excellent music for dancing. The floor of the lodge room is fitted specially for that purpose and is undoubtedly the best dancing floor in the county. The pool and billiard rooms were also very popular with the guests, while others amused themselves in the game rooms playing cards, checkers, dominos, etc. A supper consisting of salads, sandwiches, wafers, olives and ices was served in the spacious parlors down stairs.

One of the features of the evening was an old fashioned Virginia reel led by Captain Tudhunter and Colonel S. J. Huston. The merriment lasted until a late hour and all were unanimous in saying that this was the greatest social function of the season. Many members from the adjoining country were here and the whole number in attendance is estimated at about three hundred.

#### In Honor of Miss Smith.

One of our Lexington, Ky., exchanges gives an elaborate account of a high social function given by Mrs. John Field in honor of Miss Elizabeth Smith, of this city, who is spending the holidays with Mrs. Reid and Miss Bassett. Miss Smith is one of the gifted young women of Lexington, much beloved for the generosity with which she lends her talents to religious and social occasions. She is teaching vocal music at Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

#### A Pension For Him.

William A. Davis, survived by a son and daughter still living in St. Joseph, invented the system of railway mail distribution now in general use by the Postal Department. The system is sufficient, and that he should not have been patented, but when congress convenes after the holidays, Senator Cockrell will present a bill, asking that the merits of the inventor be substantially rewarded.

Married, at Buckner, Mo., December 29, Mr. Samuel Perry, of Bates City, and Mrs. Kate Rumbarger of Odessa.

## DEATH OF MRS. DOCKERY.

After Long Illness she Yields to Heart Disease.

### HUSBAND AND SISTERS AT BEDSIDE.

Buried at Chillicothe Yesterday Beside Her Children.

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Dockery, wife of Governor Dockery, died at the mansion, Jefferson City, Thursday morning at 5:45. By the bedside were the governor, Mrs. Margaret B. Lincoln, of Bowling Green, and Mrs. Carrie B. Orr, of Kansas City—sisters of Mrs. Dockery—and Dr. Thorpe.

Mrs. Dockery, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Greenup Bird, was born in Liberty, Mo., March 15, 1849; was married to Mr. Dockery at Chillicothe, where her parents had moved four years before, in '69; moved to Gallatin in '74, where her husband practiced medicine until the time of his election to congress.

Mrs. Dockery combined admirably the qualities which are needed in the wife of a public man. She was very helpful to her husband throughout his political career. She was, in many departments of his work, his advisor. In his early days as a congressman she attended to most of his correspondence. Without being specially devoted to society she shone in it. In domestic management she found her greatest pleasure.

The burial took place yesterday at Chillicothe, Mo., where her children are buried.

#### Week of Prayer.

The following order has been adopted by the Ministers' Alliance of Lexington for the week of prayer beginning Sunday, January 4:

Sunday, January 4, Baptist and Christian churches, subject, optional, Revs. B. R. Briney and H. A. Hohenwald.

Monday, January 5, German Evangelical church, subject, "Our Homes," Rev. B. R. Briney.

Tuesday, January 6, German M. E. church, subject, "Our Schools," Rev. J. C. Given.

Wednesday, January 7, M. E. church, South, subject, "Our Country's Army and Navy," Rev. Chas. Manly.

Thursday, January 8, Baptist church, subject, "The Brotherhood of Nations," Rev. D. Buchmueller.

Friday, January 9, Presbyterian church, subject, "Home Missions," Rev. H. A. Hohenwald.

Saturday, January 10, Christian church, subject, "Foreign Missions," Rev. Dr. E. C. Gordon.

Sunday, January 11, M. E. South and Presbyterian churches, subject, optional, Dr. E. C. Gordon and Rev. D. Buchmueller.

Week day services begin at 7:30 p. m.; Sunday services at the usual time of meeting of that congregation in whose house the service is held. "Let all the people praise the Lord for all his mercies." You are especially invited to attend every one of these services. D. BUCHMUELLER.

#### Chairman Ministers Alliance.

Mrs. R. B. Tunstall entertained Thursday afternoon from two till five in honor of Mrs. George Tunstall. Mesdames E. R. Wolf, H. B. Tunstall and George Tunstall and Miss Sophie Tunstall received. After some time spent in conversation the guests were shown to the dining room by Mrs. J. D. Conner, where they were served with light refreshments and coffee by Misses Norma and Nadine Steele. Left Tocker, Fern Bailey, Ollie Carter and Mrs. John Poage. The parlors were tastefully decorated in holy, mistletoe and holly. About one hundred invitations were issued and this was undoubtedly one of the most charming social events of the season.

Miss Ethel Gibbs came down from Kansas City Friday morning to resume her duties as vocal teacher at H. F. C. school on Saturday.

Miss Estelle Walker went to Kansas City Thursday morning to spend a few days with her father.